



AMESBURY

CITY HALL
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913
978-388-8100

Virtual City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 12, 2021 7:00pm

This meeting was conducted under the 'Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, §20', signed on March 12, 2020.

The public was able to view this meeting on:

- ACTV Channel 12
- the ACTV website: amesburyctv.org/channel-12-live
- or the ACTV Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/AmesburyCommunityTelevision

Public comment can be made by:

- Emailing a comment in advance to clerk@amesburyma.gov. The comment will be read aloud at the appropriate time in the agenda and entered into the public record.
- Commenting on the Facebook Live stream on Amesbury Community Television's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AmesburyCommunityTelevision>. Please begin the comment with PUBLIC COMMENT if it is to be read aloud. If the public hearing for the item you wish to speak on has already been closed, your comment will be added to the record but not read aloud
- **Members of the public were allowed to dial in to GoToMeeting using their phone: +1 (571) 317 3112 Access Code: 575-678-653**
- Copies of agenda items (first and second readings) are found online at www.amesburyma.gov/city-council/pages/2021-council-bills

Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Lennon

Roll Call was taken and present were Councilors Lennon, Mandeville, Rinaldi, Stanganelli, Wheeler, Gilday, Hogg, and Einson. Councilor Kisieleski arrived at 7:23pm.

Councilor Lennon moved to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021 with correction on page 5 to add s after apostrophe in both motions, April 13, 2021 with the correction on page 7 add (9) to 2021-061 and April 27, 2021. Councilor Hogg seconded.

Roll Call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (8)

1. Mayoral Appointments –

2021-069 Reappointment of KP Law as City Attorney for a term to expire March 31, 2022

Mark Reich spoke on behalf of KP Law and how they have been the City Solicitor for many years.

Councilor Wheeler moved to approve 2021-069 as presented.

Councilor Lennon seconded

Roll Call vote was taken and it was approved IN FAVOR (7) OPPOSED (1) Stanganelli

2021-070 Appointment of Joan MacPherson to Health Care Trust Commission for a term to exp. June 30, 2024

Paul Fahey stated that because Ms. MacPherson was on vacation this week she would not be able to attend this meeting. He stated that he interviewed her and she expressed a specific interest in the Health Care Trust Commission. She has spoken with a colleague on that committee about what involvement would be and she was still interested so he recommended her to the Mayor for appointment.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2021-070 as presented.

Councilor Gilday seconded

Roll Call vote was taken and it was approved IN FAVOR (7) ABSTAINED (1) Lennon

2021-071 Appointment of Jessalyn Hudgins to Cultural Council for a term to expire June 30, 2024

Ms. Hudgins introduced herself as a transplant from Boston to Newburyport. She stated that she moved up right before COVID leaving a career in Finance for 15 years and coming to start a corporate Wellness Consultant Company and she teaches Yoga with Bryony and Birch in Amesbury which considers itself a community creative collaborative. They are looking to get involved with other local business, cross promote, support each other and really just help to see the city thrive. So, it makes sense to join the City Cultural Council as a liaison to be of service to the city and she looks forward to doing that.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2021-071 as presented.

Councilor Lennon seconded

Roll Call vote was taken and it was Unanimous (8)

2021-072 Appointment of Ashlynn Rickord to Cemetery Advisory Commission for a term to exp. June 30, 2024

Ms. Rickord introduced herself and mentioned that she is in the process of moving into Amesbury. She was previously the Cemetery Director in Providence, Rhode Island. She works with Plot Box which is a cemetery management software company based out of Ireland but she oversees all of the North American customers. She has worked in the cemetery industry for many years and volunteered previously as well. She is looking forward to working in Amesbury.

Councilor Einson read a letter from Jane Snow (**Attachment #1**)

Councilor Wheeler moved to approve 2021-072 as presented.

Councilor Stanganelli seconded

Roll Call vote was taken and it was Unanimous (8)

2021-073 Appointment of Kaitlyn Ziegler to Board of Health for a term to expire June 30, 2024

Ms. Ziegler introduced herself as an Amesbury resident of approximately 2 years. She currently works as a Nurse Practitioner at a school based High School health center. She is also a Nurse in Boston Children's and recently has been helping out with the COVID efforts and administering vaccines. She is looking forward to helping out the community.

(Councilor Kisieleski arrived)

Councilor Lennon moved to approve 2021-073 as presented.

Councilor Hogg seconded.

Roll Call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

6. Licenses and Permits

- Monthly list of licenses

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve as presented.

Councilor Lennon seconded

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

7. Correspondence

- President/Vice President Communications

Councilor Einson shared that 2021 is a municipal election year. Beginning May 13, 2021 you will be able to pull papers in order to run for city positions including the City Council. Papers can be picked up in the City Clerk's Office until Friday, July 23, 2021 by 5pm. Papers need to be turned in by 5pm on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. More details can be found on the city website which is www.amesburyma.gov/clerk/news/2021-election-schedule

Councilor Wheeler gave an update on the Elementary School project. The bid was awarded at the School Building Committee meeting last night. It was awarded to CTA Construction Managers of Waltham, MA. Their

base bid of \$49,740,000 was accepted as well as two of the projects three add alternates. A \$13,000 alternate for laying conduit for future electric vehicle charging stations as well as a \$2,100 alternate for infrastructure related to a future conversion of the kitchen from gas to electric. The third alternate was \$72,000 and was not awarded. So the total bid for the school is \$49,755,100.00.

He updated on the Charter Revisions that they voted on last month and have been filed with the state and we are waiting for a docket number.

Paul Fahey stated that they were filed thru Representative Kelcourse office along with Senator DiZoglio as co-sponsor which is the standard protocol. Bills that are filed get what is called a docket number and then they are admitted and assigned to committee. Anyone who wants to track; the omnibus bill has not been filed yet because of the size of the document; it needed a little more time. So, an act amending the Charter of the City to increase the term of Mayor to 4 years is #HD4215 and the second Home Rule Relative to School Committee Chair is #HD4216.

Courtney, Representative Kelcourse's Aide is working on filing the larger package. We will send that docket # out when we receive it.

Mr. Fahey shared that budget books were complete and posted online. Caitlin is on vacation this week and we hope to have them ready sometime Monday.

Mayor Gove will be at the first Finance Committee budget hearing and will make an initial presentation of the budget.

- Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions

Councilor Lennon requested that going into the 2021 construction season that they have some kind of communication system for ongoing work on Elm St. for the public.

Mr. Fahey stated that he will make sure it happens.

- Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports

8. Public Comment

City Clerk, Amanda Haggstrom read three e-mails that she received from Charles Cullen, Lon Sherman and Joel D'Arcy in regards to short term rental units. (**Attachment #2**)

9. Council Response to Public Comment

Councilor Gilday discussed the e-mails with Mayor Gove and those who were cc'd. She would like to respond by reading out the Mayor's response to Mr. D'Arcy.

She stated she has spent a significant amount of time drafting and re-drafting a revised and enhanced second version. She met in City Hall in January with the team and discussed for over 1 hour the first draft which was very restrictive. Her second draft would have been ready in mid-March but was delayed because of personal reasons. So, the second draft which incorporated content from Somerville, Salem, MA and the Newburyport Licensing ordinance which has been in committee over there for many months as well as feedback from the January meeting and greatly enhanced to dive into all sorts of details. On May 3 the second draft was supplied to the team in preparation for another hour-long meeting on May 4 which they had. Now the document is circulating through many stakeholders. She feels strongly that it is important that the short-term rental ordinance be vetted with the stakeholders. She does not want to just introduce it without the needed supports.

She then read what Mayor Gove wrote: "We have a team working on it with Pam and our Attorneys. It is important that what we draft is thoughtful and we realize the potential impact this will have on all corners of Amesbury. It is also important that the bill is something that we can enforce and have the mechanisms in place to do so. We remain committed to passing legislation regarding short term rental units".

10. Second Readings

Public Hearings

2021-043 An Ordinance to amend Amesbury Zoning Bylaw (2015 as amended) to govern electronic signs, message boards, and billboards. Councilor Stanganelli, Mandeville and Lennon sponsor

Summary: A measure to amend the Amesbury Zoning Bylaw by updating Section VII: Signs to include defined uses and restrictions on electronic outdoor advertising.

Councilor Einson stated that this item was referred to the Planning Board who voted to convene a working group to better study this issue.

Councilor Stanganelli stated that he had a draft circulating that outlines the change to accommodate some of the questions and issues that have been brought up; specifically sign size, static signs and the allowing of signs by businesses including menu boards, open and closed signs and such. That was circulated to the co-sponsors and hopefully to the Ordinance Committee. What he would like to do is have it accepted by the Council so that it can be put forward to the Ordinance Committee officially. It is labeled Draft 2 amendments.

Councilor Gilday stated that the e-mail arrived at 6:51pm this evening and she has not read it. If we are going to vote she can't say yes.

Councilor Mandeville stated that there was also a working group that was held with the Planning Board immediately preceding this meeting this evening where there was also some Planning Board feedback for which he has notes from and has not had not been able to touch base with the co-sponsors of this ordinance. So there is more information that needs to be circulated around. He proposed that be incorporated with Councilor Stanganelli's amendments so that we have one sort of comprehensive document to review further with the Planning Board and with Ordinance. Given that he is also representative of the Ordinance Committee they voted at the previous Ordinance Committee meeting to continue 2021-043 to the June 15, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting pending the Planning Board hearing. He feels given that date, there is time to circulate a revised version from all of the discussions that have been happening.

Councilor Einson stated that the next Planning Board will be on May 24 and he would like Councilor Stanganelli's amendments at least offered to them in some way so that they could include that. There is no more working group?

Councilor Mandeville stated that there was not one scheduled but they certainly could schedule one.

Councilor Lennon stated that this is before us because of a referral from Finance and there is still no referral from Ordinance Committee and a couple of working groups. What Councilor Stanganelli circulated today can easily be considered an FYI, this is the progress that we are making. Her recommendation is that they continue this public hearing for the City Council as a whole to our July 13, meeting and the rest of the discussion with regard to working with the Planning Board and working group and Ordinance to bring a new amended version before the Council in the interim period and that leaves a lot of time for the Council in the beginning of July to review a redlined complete revision.

Councilor Mandeville stated that he was going to suggest the same.

Nipun Jain, City Planner stated that he just wanted to add that the working group of the Planning Board had made some suggestions to the sponsors and they will be working on some amended language. It appears that the co-sponsors also have some suggestions for making the revisions for the Ordinance. It would help if all amendments were put together into one document for the City Council to act on.

Councilor Mandeville moved to continue 2021-043 to the July 13, 2021 City Council meeting.

Councilor Hogg seconded.

Roll call was taken and it was voted approved Unanimous (9)

2021-044 An Ordinance to establish the higher senior tax exemption program (STEP), a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption – Councilor' Stanganelli, Rinaldi and Hogg sponsor

Summary: An ordinance to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption based on the Massachusetts Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit.

Councilor Einson closed the public hearing.

Councilor Stanganelli read the Finance Committee recommendation of April 27, 2021 in which it was sent back with a positive recommendation pending amendments as follows:

- Include a section 8, to the effect of "the annual exemption limit for this program shall be \$200,000.00"
- Having knowledge, prior to the next City Council meeting, of whether or not a Home Rule Petition is needed.

- Having a modified version of this bill to vote on for the second reading.

He stated that all of this has been addressed except he is unaware if KP LAW has provided input. As noted in the language if it is determined that the Home Rule Petition is not needed then we won't go that route. If it does, then this would authorize the Mayor to proceed with requesting a Home Rule Petition. He deferred to the Administration to comment.

Paul Fahey stated that he has not yet spoken with KP LAW.

Councilor Einson asked for a motion to accept the amended version in place of the original version. We are not voting to approve it; we are just voting to replace the original with this one.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to accept the amended version in place of the original version.

Councilor Mandeville reported that at the April 20, 2021 Ordinance Committee meeting 2021-044 was sent back to the Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Lennon seconded.

Roll call vote was taken and it was voted Unanimous (9)

Councilor Stanganelli moved to accept the revised version of 2021-044 and requested that the revised edition be added to the list of bills on the website.

Councilor Hogg seconded.

Roll Call vote was taken and it was approved IN FAVOR (8) OPPOSED (1) Lennon

2021-048 An Order to enable reduction of the speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour in thickly settled and business districts. Mayor Gove and Councilor Gilday sponsor

Summary: This order will authorize the City of Amesbury to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 90 Section 17C, allowing the City to reduce the posted speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour on roadways in thickly settled and business districts, and to amend the City's Traffic and Parking Regulations consistent therewith.

Councilor Gilday explained the changes to the document and that it was just moving paragraphs around

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2021-048 as amended.

Councilor Wheeler seconded.

Roll call was taken and it was approved IN FAVOR (8) OPPOSED (1) Kisieleski

2021-052 An Ordinance to reduce interest rate charged annually on the deferred amount of property tax under the Senior Property Tax Deferral program. –Councilor Stanganelli, Rinaldi, and Hogg

Summary: An Ordinance to lower the burden on senior taxpayers by lowering the interest rate charged on property taxes deferred under the Senior Property Tax Deferral program described under M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41A by adopting a lower interest rate during the deferral period and to increase the income limit for eligibility of the program by adopting the higher income limit set by the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit to the "single not head of household level" (M.G.L. Chapter 62).

Councilor Stanganelli read the recommendation from the Finance Committee of April 27, 2021 in which they sent 2021-052 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Mandeville read the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee of April 20, 2021 in which they sent 2021-052 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to accept 2021-052 as presented.

Councilor Hogg seconded

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved IN FAVOR (7) OPPOSED (2) Kisieleski & Lennon

2021-058 An Order to authorize to accept a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for FY 2021. - Mayor Sponsor

Summary: The Massachusetts Cultural Council has allocated \$9,000.00 from the FY 2021 Local Cultural Council funds to the Amesbury Cultural Council's local fund.

Councilor Stanganelli read the recommendation of the Finance Committee of April 27, 2021 in which they sent 2021-058 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2021-058 as presented.

Councilor Hogg seconded

Roll Call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-059 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend Emergency COVID-19 Funding from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). – Mayor Sponsor

Summary: The City of Amesbury has received \$8,549.79 in funds from the MAPC for use in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. This represents the first disbursement of emergency funding in 2021, and can be used for expenses incurred between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021.

Councilor Stanganelli read the recommendation of the Finance Committee of April 27, 2021 in which 2021-059 was sent back to the City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2021-059 as presented.

Councilor Lennon seconded.

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-060 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a FY21 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant from the Department of Fire Services (DFS). –Mayor Sponsor

Summary: This grant from DFS (not to exceed \$15,000.00) will be used to cover the costs of:

- Personal protective equipment (individual SCBA face piece);
- Department equipment (Ropes: rescue & individual safety and hardware); and
- Rescue R.I.T. (rapid deployment craft, tow skirt and harness, personal water craft kit)

Councilor Stanganelli read the recommendation of the Finance Committee of April 27, 2021 in which they sent 2021-060 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Lennon moved to approve 2021-060 as presented.

Councilor Gilday seconded.

Roll Call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-061 An Order to approve and accept a historic preservation restriction on property located at 140 Main Street and to authorize the Mayor to execute said restriction on behalf of the City. –Mayor Sponsor

Summary: The Planning Board approved an Application for Site Plan Review and a Historic Preservation Special Permit for property located at 140 Main Street, Amesbury, on July 27, 2020 (said approval recorded with the Essex South Registry of Deeds in Book 39031, Page 189.) The Planning Board required that a historic preservation restriction be prepared and recorded for the existing structure at the property, known as the "Currier House" or "First Methodist Church Parsonage," described in a deed recorded with said Registry in Book 38176, Page 313. The existing residence was built between May 1, 1835 and April 30, 1836 by Moses Carter, a physician, and is a 4/5 house, reminiscent of the Greek Revival Period. The intent of this Order is to obtain the authorization of the City Council to acquire the historic preservation restriction and to authorize the Mayor to accept said restriction.

Councilor Mandeville read the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee of April 20, 2021 in which they sent 2021-061 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Lennon questioned the City Planner, Nipun Jain on 4 over 5 housing.

Mr. Jain stated that is not a formal architectural definition or style. It is a reference to the dimensional ratio of the length vs width of the building footprint.

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing

Councilor Mandeville moved to approve 2021-061 as presented.

Councilor Gilday seconded.

Roll Call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous. (9)

2021-062 An Order to approve and accept a historic preservation restriction on property located at 142 Main Street and to authorize the Mayor to execute said restriction on behalf of the City. –Mayor Sponsor
Summary: The Planning Board approved an Application for Site Plan Review and a Special Permit – Light Manufacturing, for property located at 142 Main Street, Amesbury, on November 25, 2019 (said approval recorded with the Essex South Registry of Deeds in Book 38216, Page 511.) The Planning Board required that a historic preservation restriction be prepared and recorded for the church at the property, known as the “First Methodist Church,” described in a deed recorded with said Registry in Book 38176, Page 282. The church was constructed in or around 1887, and is one of the older churches in downtown Amesbury, with a number of original features. The intent of this Order is to obtain the authorization of the City Council to acquire the historic preservation restriction, and authorize the Mayor to accept the historic preservation restriction.

Councilor Mandeville read the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee of April 20, 2021 in which they sent 2021-062 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing.

Mr. Jain, City Planner stated that he just wanted all to know that this is part of a historical preservation special permit ordinance that was adopted by the community quite a few years back. That was a very momentous time in our community because we had been trying to implement historic preservation in the city of Amesbury and there are a lot of historic structures that people don't realize can be taken down if there is not incentive for redevelopment. By encouraging redevelopment, not only do we preserve the historic fabric but also the cultural history of Amesbury. Churches especially play a key role in telling the story in our community of preserving the fabric of the community and the environment. We feel very proud that we have been able to support those redevelopment efforts by developers who chose that permit and this will keep those structures preserved for the longest time possible and for the community both now and in the future to enjoy and know what really makes Amesbury so special. It is a collaborative effort between the community, the development community as well as people who care about the culture and history of Amesbury.

Councilor Lennon moved to approve 2021-062 as presented.

Councilor Wheeler seconded.

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-063 An Order to approve and accept a public access easement on property located at 142 Main Street and to authorize the Mayor to execute said easement on behalf of the City. –Mayor Sponsor
Summary: The Planning Board approved an Application for Site Plan Review and a Special Permit – Light Manufacturing, for property located at 142 Main Street, Amesbury, on November 25, 2019 (said approval recorded with the Essex South Registry of Deeds in Book 38216, Page 511.) The Planning Board required that a sidewalk be located on this property, being that property described in a deed recorded with the Registry in Book 38176, Page 282. The easement is off Naysons Court, and is shown on a plan entitled “Sidewalk Easement,” dated March 15, 2021, prepared by Winter GEC, LLC. The intent of this Order is to obtain the authorization of the City Council to acquire the public access easement, and authorize the Mayor to accept the public access easement.

Councilor Mandeville read the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee of April 20, 2021 in which they sent 2021-063 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Lennon moved to approve 2021-063 as presented.

Councilor Stanganelli seconded.

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-064 An Order to authorize the Mayor to release a Water Easement Located at 14 Merrimac Street. –Mayor Sponsor

Summary: The property located at 14 Merrimac Street is subject to a water easement described in an instrument recorded with the Essex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 2426, Page 480. The Department of Public Works has made a determination that the water easement is no longer needed. If the City Council adopts this order, the Mayor would then execute the document necessary to release the water easement, so that it no longer burdens the property at 14 Merrimac Street. The City released the sewer easement on the same property (Bill 2021-008) earlier this year.

Councilor Mandeville read the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee of April 20, 2021 in which they sent 2021-064 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Gilday moved to approve 2021-064 with a correction to the referenced bill in the summary be corrected to read 2021-008.

Councilor Hogg seconded

Roll Call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-065 An Order to amend Part I of the Administrative Legislation Ordinance to add Chapter 8, Amesbury Housing Trust. –Mayor Sponsor

Summary: The City Council, by vote taken on October 12, 2012, adopted an Order to Accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44 Section 55C, establishing a municipal affordable housing trust fund and to establish the Amesbury Housing Trust. This order will amend Part I of the Ordinance to add Chapter 8, Amesbury Housing Trust, to set forth the powers of the Trustees of the Amesbury Housing Trust and other terms governing said Trust.

Councilor Stanganelli read the recommendation of the Finance Committee of April 27, 2021 in which they sent 2021-065 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation pending amendments to language and other changes by KP Law: Changing of “be it ordered” to “be it Ordained” and KP Laws recommended changes to accommodate proper language.

Councilor Mandeville read the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee of April 20, 2021 in which they sent 2021-065 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to discharge the Housing Trust and the Planning Board from supplying a recommendation.

Councilor Mandeville seconded

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2021-065 as presented with the changes from “be it ordered” to “be it ordained” and to change the title to Ordinance as well.

Councilor Wheeler seconded.

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-066 An Ordinance to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.64G, s.3D to establish a Local Option Community Impact Fee on certain short-term rental units within the City. –Mayor & Councilor Gilday Sponsor

Summary: This ordinance will establish a local community impact fee of 3% of the total amount of rent upon each transfer of occupancy of a short-term rental unit that is located in a two (2) family or three (3) family dwelling that includes the operator's primary residence. This ordinance shall also establish a local community impact fee of 3% of the total amount of rent upon each transfer of occupancy of a professionally managed unit that is lo-

cated within the City. No less than 35% of these collected community impact fees shall be dedicated to the Amesbury Affordable Housing Trust. –Mayor and Councilor Gilday Sponsor

Councilor Gilday stated that she would like to withdraw 2021-066 without prejudice. This needs to be submitted as two separate bills.

Councilor Mandeville moved to withdraw 2021-066 without prejudice.

Councilor Gilday seconded.

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-067 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a FY2020 Community Development Fund Grant from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. –Mayor Sponsor

Summary: This Community Development Fund grant (up to \$550,000) is for:

Housing Rehabilitation: \$442,000

Public Social Services: \$29,000

General Administration: \$79,000

Councilor Stanganelli read the Finance Committee recommendation of April 27, 2021 in which they sent 2021-067 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing.

Councilor Lennon moved to approve 2021-067 as presented.

Councilor Rinaldi seconded

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-068 An Order to approve payment of an FY 2020 (prior fiscal year) invoice for the Department of Public Works (DPW). –Mayor Sponsor

Summary: The DPW has identified an invoice from FY 2020 that was not paid during the year in which the services were rendered. There is no late fee associated with this invoice.

Councilor Stanganelli read the Finance Committee recommendation of April 27, 2021 in which they sent 2021-067 back to the City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Einson opened and closed the public hearing

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2021-068 as presented.

Councilor Gilday seconded.

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

11. First Readings

2021-001 An Order to vote to adopt an Operating Budget for 2022 – Mayor Sponsor

Councilor Wheeler moved to refer 2021-001 to the Finance Committee and set a public hearing for June 8, 2021.

Councilor Stanganelli seconded.

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-074 An Order to authorize the transfer of \$755,000 from Water Retained Earnings for FY2022 Water Department capital projects. – Mayor Sponsor

Summary: Ordered that \$755,000 be appropriated from Water Retained Earnings which has a balance of \$961,008 for the following FY 22 capital projects

Councilor Gilday moved to refer 2021-074 to the Finance Committee and schedule a public hearing for June 8, 2021.

Councilor Wheeler seconded.

Roll Call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-075 An Order to authorize the Treasurer to borrow \$5,932,850 under M.G.L. c.44 for FY2022 capital projects as listed below – Mayor Sponsor

Summary: Ordered that \$5,932,850 is appropriated to pay costs of the following projects, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto.

Councilor Gilday moved to refer 2021-075 to the Finance Committee and schedule a public hearing for June 8, 2021.

Councilor Hogg seconded.

Roll Call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-076 An Order to authorize the transfer of \$20,000 from Receipts Reserved for Bond Premium and \$7,000 from the Gates at Lake Gardner account to pay for the following FY2022 capital projects – Mayor Sponsor

Summary: Ordered that \$20,000 be appropriated from Receipts Reserved for Bond Premium which has a balance of \$24,287.03 and under G.L. c.44 sec.20 may be re-appropriated to a capital project for which a loan may be authorized for an equal or longer period of time than the loan for which the premium was received and that \$7,000 be re-appropriated from the Gates at Lake Gardner to fund the following capital projects.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to refer 2021-076 to the Finance Committee and schedule a public hearing on June 8, 2021.

Councilor Lennon seconded.

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved Unanimous (9)

2021-077 An Order to conserve city-owned parcels for open space and recreational use – Mayor Sponsor

Summary: A measure to protect certain city-owned undeveloped parcels, in order to preserve open space and provide for passive recreational use that promotes the quality of life of Amesbury residents and for the preservation of natural resources, under the provisions of M.G.L. c.40, §8C, as it may hereafter be amended; M.G.L. c.45, §3, as it may hereafter be amended; and Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, as amended. Land would be placed under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission and would be reserved for conservation and passive recreation purposes.

Councilor Lennon moved to refer 2021-077 to the Ordinance Committee, Traffic & Transportation, Conservation Commission and Open Space Natural Resources and Trails Committee and send to Planning Board as an FYI, and schedule a public hearing for June 8, 2021.

Councilor Stanganelli seconded

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved IN FAVOR (8) ABSTAINED (1) Wheeler

Councilor Lennon moved to adjourn at 9:09pm.

Councilor Mandeville seconded

Roll call vote was taken and it was approved IN FAVOR (8) ABSTAINED (1) Kisieleski

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Dunning
Assistant City Clerk

Sharon Dunning

(5-12-21) attachment #1

From: Matt Einson
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Sharon Dunning
Subject: FW: Cem Com Appt

Requested email from Jane Snow.

Matt Einson
Amesbury City Council President

From: Jane Snow [jsnowcat@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Matt Einson
Subject: Cem Com Appt

Matt,

I am unable to attend tonight's Zoom mtg, but I did want to speak in support of Ashlynn Rickord's Appointment and would ask if you mind reading this for me.

Ashlynn and I had a great talk on the phone and I so enjoyed listening to all the work she did in Providence at the North Burial Ground which was a 320+ yr old cemetery. The discussion was very informative and I can't wait to hear more. I appreciate her willingness to volunteer and feel she will be a wonderful addition to the commission and to the city of Amesbury. Look forward to her arrival.

Jane Snow, Cemetery Comm

Notice: Please be aware the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that most emails to and from the City of Amesbury are public records and therefore cannot be kept confidential. MGL: Chpt.66, Sec.10 Public Records Law.

Sharon Dunning

(5-12-21)

Attachment #2

From: Amanda Haggstrom
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 11:15 AM
To: Charles Cullen
Cc: Lon Sherman; Joel D'Arcy; clerk; Pamela Gilday; Mayor Gove; Comcast LON
Subject: RE: Short Term Rental Units

Hi Charles,

Thanks for your comment as well. I will forward to Council President Einson for public comment during the meeting.

Amanda Haggstrom
City Clerk

Justice of the Peace
Notary Public
Commissioner to Qualify
Records Access Officer

City of Amesbury
62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA

t: (978) 388-8100
e: haggstroma@amesburyma.gov
www.amesburyma.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Charles Cullen [mailto:ccullen6927@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 11:13 AM
To: Amanda Haggstrom
Cc: Lon Sherman; Joel D'Arcy; clerk; Pamela Gilday; Mayor Gove; Comcast LON
Subject: Re: Short Term Rental Units

Hi Amanda

I want to add my voice to this topic. The delay in addressing this issue is a concern. We are about to enter the height of the short term rental season without a resolution after addressing this several months ago to prevent and avoid the inevitable problems that will repeated.

I am appreciative of the many priorities the Council needs to deal with; but this subject is extremely time sensitive at this point.

Sincerely,
Charlie Cullen
495 Main Street

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 11, 2021, at 10:50 AM, Amanda Haggstrom <haggstroma@amesburyma.gov> wrote:

>

> Hi Lon,

>

> I will also send your comments to the Council President to be read aloud during the meeting.

>

> Thanks,

>

> Amanda Haggstrom

> City Clerk

>

> Justice of the Peace

> Notary Public

> Commissioner to Qualify

> Records Access Officer

>

> City of Amesbury

> 62 Friend St.

> Amesbury, MA

>

> t: (978) 388-8100

> e: haggstroma@amesburyma.gov

> www.amesburyma.gov

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Lon Sherman [mailto:lon.sherman@gmail.com]

> Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:00 AM

> To: Amanda Haggstrom

> Cc: Joel D'Arcy; clerk; Pamela Gilday; Mayor Gove; Comcast LON; Charlie Cullen

> Subject: Re: Short Term Rental Units

>

> Hello Amanda

> I am equally concerned about the problem that Joel D'Arcy has raised in regard to a delay in reaching a policy regarding STRU's in Amesbury. My correspondence over the winter with Councilor Gilday as well as the Mayor led me to understand that this evolving issue would be addressed as a matter of concern for all residents of the community.

> Action should be taken before it is too late.

> Dr. Lon Sherman

> 400 Main Street

>

>> On May 11, 2021, at 9:25 AM, Amanda Haggstrom <haggstroma@amesburyma.gov> wrote:

>>

>> Hi Joel,

>>

>> Thanks for your comments. I'll submit them to Council President Einson, and make sure that they will be read aloud during the public comment portion of the council meeting.

>>

>> Amanda Haggstrom
>> City Clerk
>>
>>
>> Justice of the Peace
>> Notary Public
>> Commissioner to Qualify
>> Records Access Officer
>>
>> City of Amesbury
>> 62 Friend St.
>> Amesbury, MA
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>> t: (978) 388-8100
>> e: haggstroma@amesburyma.gov
>> www.amesburyma.gov
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>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Joel D'Arcy [mailto:joeldarcy@aol.com]
>> Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:16 AM
>> To: clerk
>> Cc: Pamela Gilday; Mayor Gove; Comcast LON; Lon Sherman; Charlie Cullen
>> Subject: Short Term Rental Units
>>

>> To the City Clerk,

>>
>> Good morning. My understanding is that by sending this to you the comment below will be read aloud at this evening City Councilor meeting.

>>
>> Best regards, Joel D'Arcy
>>

>> Sender:
>> Joel D'Arcy
>> 473 Main St
>> Amesbury, MA
>>

>> Regarding Short Term Rental Units:

>> My wife and I am very disappointed that nine months have transpired since sharing our dreadful experiences in our residential neighborhood and that no ordinances exist for Short Term Rental Units. I presented Councilor Gilday research highlighting actions taken by approximately 50 progressive communities and cities across the country dealing with the many adverse negative effects of short term rentals on the quality of life of the neighborhoods where they exist.

>>
>> In February I shared an article from the Wall Street Journal showing communities banning short term rental units and buyers only seeking out homes where strict restrictions exist on STRU's.
>>

>> Last September we were given assurances that the City of Amesbury understands actions need to be taken and that city Councilor Gilday would drive this initiative and the Mayor would co-sponsor. I understand significant work has been done on this topic and some tragic personal losses have delayed action.

>>

>> Having not seen STRU ordinances on this evenings agenda, I am requesting that you please take action in the near term on this topic. It has created much disquiet in our peaceful neighborhood. The situation will only get worse throughout our Amesbury Community without specific action that addresses noise, and limits the number of short term rentals allowed.

>>

>> We very much appreciate all the work performed by the Mayor and city councilors on behalf of its citizens.

>>

>> Best regards, Joel D'Arcy

>>

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>> Sent from my iPad

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